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T O P S E C R E T T T T T [REDACTED] CITE NPIC 1542

SUBJECT: CHICOM SOLID PROPELLANT CAPABILITY

1. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PROVIDED AS PART OF THE CONTINUING EFFORT TO ACCESS THE CHICOM SOLID PROPELLANT CAPABILITY:

A. RECENT CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT TAI-YUAN SOLID PROPELLANT PRODUCTION FACILITY, CHINA (37-59N 112-33E) APPEARS TO BE THE DELAYED COMPLETION OF THE ORIGINAL PLANT AREA. THE NITROGLYCERIN, NITROCELLULOSE AND DOUBLE BASE PROCESSING BUILDINGS ARE IDENTICAL TO THOSE FOUND AT THE SOVIET FACILITIES LOCATED IN BIYSK, KRASNOYARSK, KAMENSK SHAKHTINSKIY, STERLITAMAK, PERM AND SOLIKAMSK. THE SOVIETS APPEAR TO HAVE LAID OUT A STRAIGHT DOUBLE BASE EXTRUSION OPERATION FOR THE CHINESE THAT WAS TO CONTAIN 3 NITROGLYCERIN LINES. ALL 3 OF THESE NITROGLYCERIN LINES WERE OBSERVED TO BE UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN JUNE 1959. THE FIRST NITROGLYCERIN LINE WAS COMPLETED IN SEPTEMBER 1963, THE SECOND LINE WAS APPROACHING COMPLETION IN MAY 1967 WHILE THE THIRD LINE REMAINS UNDER CONSTRUCTION. NO SOVIET-TYPE DOUBLE BASE CASTING FACILITY IS IDENTIFIED AT TAI-YUAN. THIS MAY BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE FACT THAT THE SOVIETS PROBABLY HAD NO DOUBLE BASE CASTING FACILITIES OF THEIR OWN IN 1960, THE LAST YEAR OF THEIR TECHNICAL AID TO THE CHICOMS. THE NEW CONSTRUCTION EAST OF THE THIRD NITRATION LINE APPEARS TO BE FOR TWO PROBABLE EXTRUSION AND FINAL PROCESSING LINES. THE HALT IN CONSTRUCTION AT THE 3RD NITROGLYCERIN LINE CAN PROBABLY BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE CONSTRUCTION TAKING PLACE AT THE EXTRUSION AND PROCESSING AREA. EVIDENCE OF THE NEWLY CONSTRUCTED PROBABLE EXTRUSION BUILDINGS AND POSSIBLE FINAL GRAIN PROCESSING SITES WERE ALSO PRESENT. ALL THREE NITROGLYCERIN LINES WERE PROBABLY INTENDED TO SUPPORT A STRAIGHT DOUBLE BASE EXTRUSION OPERATION.

B. A NEW REVETTED BUILDING IMMEDIATELY EAST OF THE 2ND NITROGLYCERIN LINE MAY POSSIBLY BE FOR A NITROGLYCERIN RECOVERY SYSTEM RATHER THAN FOR PRODUCING A CAST DOUBLE BASE SOLVENT SUCH AS DESENSITIZED NITROGLYCERIN. A BUILDING OF THIS TYPE IS NOT NEEDED TO PRODUCE EXTRUDED GRAINS.

C. NEW CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY EAST OF THE 3RD NITROGLYCERIN LINE, CONSISTING OF SIX NEWLY REVETTED BUILDINGS AND THE REVETMENT OF OF AN EXISTING BUILDING, EXTENSIVE TRENCHING ACTIVITY AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF SHELTERS AND NUMEROUS SMALL BUILDINGS, APPEARS TO BE THE CULMINATION OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY PRESENT IN JUNE 1959. IT APPEARS UNLIKELY AT THE PRESENT TIME THAT THIS AREA IS ENGAGED IN CAST DOUBLE BASE OR COMPOSITE PROPELLANT FORMULATIONS. THE TRENCHING ACTIVITY APPEARS

TO BE FOR STEAM LINES SERVING THE PROBABLE EXTRUSION BUILDINGS. IT ALSO SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD HAVE SUPPLIED PLANS FOR A COMPOSITE OPERATION IN 1959 WHEN THEY THEMSELVES ONLY BEGAN CONSTRUCTION OF A COMPOSITE FACILITY AT KEMEROVO IN 1961.

D. THE NEWLY CONSTRUCTED RAIL AND ROAD SERVED PROPELLANT/ROCKET MOTOR STORAGE SITES, LOCATED IN GULLIES NEARBY, WERE FIRST

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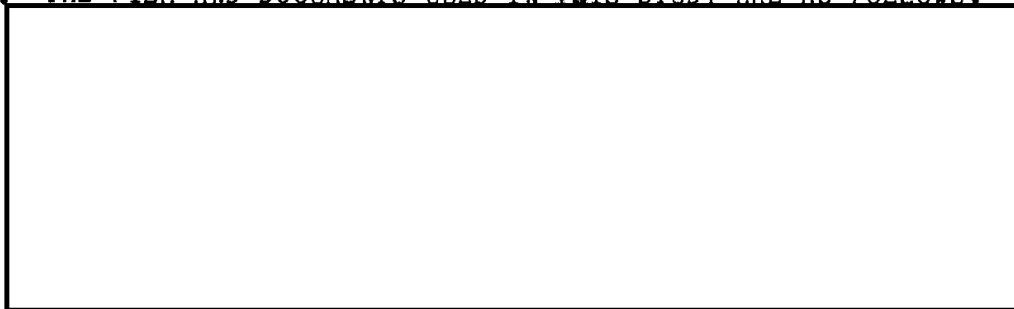
TOP SECRET

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
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OBSERVED UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN MAY 1965. A COLLATERAL REPORT OF AN UNDERGROUND FACTORY IN THE VICINITY WAS REPORTED AS BEING IN PRODUCTION DURING THE 1959-1960 TIME SPAN. IT APPEARS THAT THE CHINESE HAVE UTILIZED THE NATURAL GULLIES AS A PROTECTED STORAGE AREA. TWO ADDITIONAL STORAGE AREAS MAY BE UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN TWO GULLIES LOCATED DUE WEST OF THE TWO PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED.

2. THE FILM AND DOCUMENTS USED IN THIS STUDY ARE AS FOLLOWS:



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15 JUNE 62 (SECRET)

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